Gone One Morning

-James Baldwin had me in mind
when he said something like
You have to be pretty naive
about life to think you can get
through it clean.

-Well, things were working cleanly
indeed for you up to that horrendous
divorce!

-When I got filtered through law and
lawyers, Jack the Ripper looked
like a choirboy! The challenge then was
just to keep going, save a bit of face.

-Your darkest morning?

-Got up anyway…looked in the mirror…
face had gone…completely!

-Oh? And what’s this thing you’re
wearing around?

-This caricature? Children laugh!
Adults condescend with remarks

entirely bitter!

-Uh huh? Well, as long as your wonderful Stelly presently adheres, you'll have a life!

-She’s patiently preparing disaster.